Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 VIENTI 05719 170650Z

16
ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ADP-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 RSR-01 RSC-01

/027 W
---------- 109862
R 170525Z AUG 73
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5418
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 5719

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, LA
SUBJECT: CODEL WOLFF

1. CODEL WOLFF -- CONSISTING OF REPS WOLFF (D-NY), RANGEL (D-NY), ABZUG (D-NY), MURPHY (D-ILL), STARK (D-CAL) AND DR. BRADY (STAFF CONSULTANT) -- PAID WHIRLWIND VISIT TO VIENTIANE AUGUST 14-15. THEY ARRIVED MID-DAY AUGUST 14 AND DEPARTED IN THREE INCREMENTS, AND IN THREE DIRECTIONS, EARLY MORNING (I.E. 0330, 0800 AND 0830 HOURS) AUGUST 15. CODEL WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MR. ABZUG, REP STARK'S DAUGHTER, AND ROBERT WIEDRICH OF THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE, AS WELL AS FSO KUSHLIS, ESCORT OFFICER FROM EMBASSY BANGKOK.

2. ALTHOUGH REP WOLFF WAS TRAVELLING IN HIS ROLE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTER-NATIONAL NARCOTICS OF THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, CODEL EVINCED INTEREST IN LAO POLITICAL SITUATION,
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 VIENTI 05719 170650Z

PARTICULARLY STATUS OF TALKS BETWEEN RLG AND LPF, AS

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

WELL AS THE DRUG PROBLEM IN LAOS AND THE
RLG/USG PROGRAM DESIGNED TO COMBAT THE PROBLEM.

3. CODEL HAD GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS BOTH QUESTIONS
AT LUNCHEON HOSTED BY USAID DIRECTOR MANN WHICH WAS
ATTENDED NOT ONLY BY RANKING LAO WORKING ON DRUG PROBLEM,
SUCH AS GSI DIRECTOR GENERAL KHAMHOU, ACTING CUSTOMS
DIRECTOR BOUNLITH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR LAO NATIONAL POLICE
VATHA AND DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL DETOXIFICATION CENTER
DR. SOUDALY, BUT ALSO BY PHENG PHONGSAVAN, MINISTER OF
INTERIOR AND RLG PLENIPOTENTIARY REPRESENTATIVE AT LAO
INTERNAL TALKS.

4. SUBSEQUENTLY, CODEL ENGAGED IN LIVELY AND CANDID
EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN SOUTH-
EAST ASIA DURING HOUR-LONG DISCUSSION WITH CHARGE. THEY
MANIFESTED PARTICULAR DOUBT OVER THE VALUE OF U.S.
BOMBING AS A TOOL OF U.S. DIPLOMACY. CHARGE POINTED
OUT THAT CEASEFIRE IN LAOS HAD RESULTED FROM USE OF
FORCE COMBINED WITH DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS.

5. IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION WITH MEMBERS OF MISSION'S
NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTION GROUP, CODEL RECEIVED BRIEFING
ON STATUS OF PROBLEMS AND PROGRAMS IN LAOS. THEY
EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER ALLEGATIONS OF PRC INVOLVEMENT
IN INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFICKING (SOMETHING WHICH OUR
INTELLIGENCE AND EXPERIENCE IN LAOS DOES NOT SUPPORT).
THEY APPEARED GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH RLG ENFORCEMENT
EFFORTS IN THE NARCOTICS FIELD, BUT FAULTED WHAT THEY
CONSIDERED INEFFICIENT MANNER IN WHICH DRUG CASES ARE
BEING PROSECUTED IN LAO COURTS.

6. CODEL ALSO MET FOR TWO AND ONE-HALF HOURS WITH
GENERAL KHAMHOU AND HIS STAFF AT GSI. REP WOLFF PRAISED
KHANHOU FOR JOB DONE BY GSI AND PROMISED THAT HE WOULD
SEE THAT KHAMHOU RECEIVED A CONGRESSIONAL COMMENDATION.
KHAMHOU NOTED THAT RLG IS REVISING ITS ANTI-NARCOTICS
LAW TO PROVIDE FOR MORE SEVERE PENALTIES. HE ADDED THAT
HE EXPECTS GSI TO CONTINUE FUNCTIONING AS PART OF THE
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AFTER NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

IS FORMED. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, HE SAID THAT
PROSECUTION OF ASSEMBLY MEMBER MUA XU HAD NOT BEEN
PURSUED BY RLG BECAUSE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HAD REFUSED
TO WITHDRAW HIS IMMUNITY BECAUSE HE HAD NOT BEEN FOUND
IN FLAGRANTE DELICTO POSSESSION OF DRUGS AS REQUIRED
BY LAO LAW (MUA XU CLAIMED DRUGS FOUND AT HIS RESIDENCE
IN JUNE 1972 BELONGED TO SOME OF HIS CONSTITUENTS AND
HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH HIM). REP WOLFF TOLD KHAMHOU

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

THAT, IF HE WAS TROUBLE WITH LAO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, HE SHOULD TELL DEPUTIES THAT U.S. AID TO LAOS IS CONTINGENT UPON LAO COOPERATION IN FIGHT AGAINST INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFICKING.

7. AT SOCIAL GATHERING DURING EVENING, REP ABZUG REPEATEDLY STATED THAT CONGRESS WOULD VOTE FOR CONTINUED U.S. ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO LAOS AND THAT SHE PERSONALLY WOULD SURELY SUPPORT AT LEAST ECONOMIC AID FOR LAOS. THERE APPEARED TO BE A CONSENSUS WITHIN CODEL THAT LAOS IS PRESENTLY ON RIGHT TRACK, AND MEMBERS EXPRESSED GRATIFICATION OVER FACT THAT CEASEFIRE IN LAOS HAS BROUGHT FIGHTING PRACTICALLY TO A STOP.

8. UNFORTUNATELY, IN VIEW OF THEIR EARLY DEPARTURES AUGUST 15, CODEL MEMBERS CANCELLED THEIR PLANNED VISIT TO RLG NATIONAL DETOXIFICATION AND REHABILITATION CENTER. LIKEWISE, BREVITY OF VISIT PRECLUDED ANY FIELD TRIPS TO VIEW USAID AGRICULTURAL REDIRECTION EFFORTS AIMED AT HELPING HILL TRIBES TO FIND ALTERNATIVES TO POPPY CULTIVATION.

9. ON PRACTICAL SIDE, EMBASSIES WHICH ARE EXPECTING VISIT FROM CODEL MAY WISH TO PREPARE SEPARATE SCHEDULES FOR MISS STARK, MR. ABZUG AND ESPECIALLY FOR MR. WIEDRICH, DURING TIMES WHEN CODEL IS RECEIVING CLASSIFIED BRIEFINGS.
DEAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, MEETING DELEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973VIENTI05719
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730829/aaaaavju.tel
Line Count: 143
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25-Jul-2001 by kellerpr>; APPROVED <14-Aug-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL WOLFF
TAGS: SNAR, OREP, LA, (WOLFF)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005